

Judging by the "Power of Tower" compilation (Cred Factory Records), the Triangle music scene has much to be proud of.

THE NEWS & OBSERVER

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- 1 Whiskeytown "The Great Divide" 3:25
- 2 Rubbermaid "Stripmall" 2:16
- 3 Joby's Opinion "Kaiser Manley" 4:04
- 4 Cole "Pigeon" 3:28
- 5 Analogue "You Cannot Caress Me" 7:57
- 6 Dear Enemy "Almonds and Raisins" 1:49
- 7 Dear Enemy "Blue Glass Bottle" 3:25
- 8 \$2 Pistols "Nobody Like You" 4:00
- 9 Gold Sparkle Quartet "Bratislava du Autobus" 8:33
- 10 William Christ Supercarr "Simple" 3:34
- 11 Bicentennial Quarters "Chex Mist" 3:41
- 12 Pine State "King of Swagger" 3:47
- 13 Starry Wisdom Band "Planet of the Me-hums" 3:21
- 14 BeatlesS "Antwaun and Earl, Freestylin" 3:47

Home pride

An important measure of any community is how well it pulls together during times of trouble. Judging by the "Power of Tower" compilation (Cred Factory Records), the Triangle music scene has much to be proud of.

"Power of Tower" is a benefit to raise money for Duke University radio station WXDU, which lost its broadcast antenna to Hurricane Fran. The driving force behind it is the tireless Ross Grady, who also compiled 1995's swank Richard Hell tribute album "Who the Hell." Grady hosts a weekly local music show, "Live From the XDU Lounge," which features live music. Being a compulsive taper and archiver, Grady records the performances for posterity — and occasions like this record. Like "Who the Hell" and last year's "Cognitive Mapping" compilation, "Power of Tower" makes for a nice scene sampler (13 of its 14 bands are local, the lone out-of-town ringer being Atlanta's Gold Sparkle Quartet). It's also wildly erratic, mixing honky-tonk with pop, folk, hip hop and skronk. You'll find something to like here, and also no doubt something to hate.

Among the best selling points: Whiskeytown's live-set staple "The Great Divide"; country-rock deconstructionists Pine State's surprisingly straightforward "King of Swagger"; and the first commercially available recordings by Dana Kletter's side band, Dear Enemy, and country purists \$2 Pistols. If you can listen to the latter's cover of Roger Miller's "Nobody Like You" without getting at least a little choked up, well, you may be too far gone to help.

The performances are rough and off the cuff, as you might expect given the cramped physical circumstances of squeezing bands into a radio station studio. But an appealing sense of time, place and community always comes through.

Like the concluding track, "Antwaun and Earl, Freestylin'." Two kids from the neighborhood near WXDU's studio showed up one day wanting to rap. So they did, with the band BeatlesS providing backup. Grady says he still has no idea who those kids were, but he wants them to know they've got a free copy of this record coming.

For the rest of us, "Power of Tower" costs \$10 and is available in limited local release at the following stores: Roots Records in Carrboro, Spinning Mule Records in Raleigh, Poindexter Records in Durham, Monster Records in Chapel Hill and Schoolkid's Records in Raleigh.